 St Patrick’s P.S.

 and Nursery

 Castlederg

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24/8/20

Dear Parent/s

Further to my letters dated June 2020 and July 2020 I wish to inform you that pupils in the Primary School will return to school on a full time basis from Tuesday 1st September 2020. This is due to the updated guidance issued by the DE the previous week. Each class and year band will be operating in a social bubble where possible.

**The pupils will need a packed lunch and will be eating their lunch in their classrooms. Pupils entitled to free school lunch will receive a lunch from school.** There will be no hot meals in the first 2 weeks in September. Please check your entitlement through the EA. Pupils will wear school uniform as normal but will not need to get changed for PE.

The pupils do not need to bring anything to school but I will allow a schoolbag, lunch box and a pencil case. They will need a pencil, sharpener, rubber, ruler, a small number of colouring pencils, a glue stick, small safe scissors, and a small whiteboard if parents prefer to source this themselves. Pupils may also may bring a small bottle of sanitiser if you permit this. Otherwise they will be using normal handwashing. They will not be allowed to share stationary etc. due to possibility of infection.

School transport will operate as normal with the option of pupils wearing masks if parent/s wish. There will be no breakfast or homework clubs in September initially. Pupils may begin to enter the building at 9.00am and make their way to their classes. Older pupils may escort the younger brothers and sisters to the door of their classrooms.

Arrangements for a phased return of Nursery Pupils will have been communicated directly to parents by Mrs. Shelley.

Miss. Breslin’s P1 pupils attend school on Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th September 2020 and Mrs. Mc Laughlin’s P1 pupils in Group 1 as per July’s letter attend Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd September and Group 2 attend Thursday 3rd September and Friday 4th September 2020 for settling in purposes. A further letter for P1 parents explains these arrangements on our website.

On the pupils return staff will be on hand to help the pupils go to their new classrooms.

Staggered dismissals will be used P2 2.00pm, P3 2.15pm, P4/P5 3.00pm and P6/7 3.15pm. I will permit family groups to leave with a parent as one group at the earliest time to avoid having a build-up at the school gates. I would encourage older pupils within walking distance to walk home please to avoid a build-up of people waiting also. **Due to social distancing parents will not be able enter the school buildings unless arranged with the Principal/Vice-Principal.**

**Pupils who are unwell, who are displaying symptoms of COVID – 19 should not attend school. There will be separate guidance related to this on our school website next week.**

These arrangements may change depending on the suppression of the virus. Again we look forward to the children returning to school and hope that parent/s adhere to the guidance outlined in this letter to keep our pupils and school community safe.

Yours sincerely,

Brian Mc Gurk Principal